

have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 183, "yea" on rollcall No. 184, "yea" on rollcall No. 185, "nay" on rollcall No. 186, "nay" on rollcall No. 187, and "yea" on rollcall No. 188.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. LOUIE GOHMERT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 16, 2008*

Mr. GOHMERT. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, April 15, 2008, I was in Tyler attending the funeral of the longest serving county judge in Smith County history: Judge Larry Craig of Tyler, Texas. Had I been present for the vote on the Motion to Recommit to H.R. 5719 regarding sanctuary cities, I would have voted "aye."

#### WELCOMING SOUTH KOREAN PRESIDENT LEE TO WASHINGTON

### HON. VITO FOSSELLA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 16, 2008*

Mr. FOSSELLA. Madam Speaker, this week the President of the Republic of Korea, Lee Myung-Bak, arrives in Washington on his first official visit to the United States since his inauguration on February 25. Indeed, this is President Lee's first major overseas trip, underscoring the importance of the long-standing U.S.-Korea alliance.

The partnership between the United States and the Republic of Korea is multilayered; it has political, diplomatic, strategic, cultural, and economic components. It is historic: the friendship between the U.S. and South Korea is more than 125 years old. It is also familial: over the past century, hundreds of thousands of people emigrated from South Korea to settle in the United States, with the result that today comprises a vibrant and dynamic Korean American community with nearly 2 million constituents.

It has been my privilege to serve as co-founder and cochair of the Congressional Korea Caucus, and in that capacity I have had many opportunities to learn about the Republic of Korea and U.S.-Korea relations. I recently stood side by side with South Korean Ambassador Lee Tae-sik at an event in my district commemorating the Korean war. I have met with numerous Korean war veterans—including many who live in Staten Island and Brooklyn—who served our Nation nobly and who lost comrades on the battlefield or who came home wounded with irreversible scars of that conflict. We will never forget their sacrifice and how their service paved the way for South Korea's enduring freedom today.

Madam Speaker, South Korean soldiers have fought alongside Americans not only in their own homeland but in Vietnam, Afghanistan, and Iraq. In fact, South Korea sent the third largest contingent of armed forces to Iraq among all the countries that have participated in that conflict and has pledged over \$460 billion in reconstruction efforts.

The Republic of Korea has often been described as an "economic miracle." A little more than 50 years ago, South Korea was an

impoverished nation perceived as having few prospects for survival, much less potential for affluence or influence. Today, it has the world's 11th largest economy and is the 7th largest trading partner of the United States.

It is no wonder, therefore, that last year negotiators for the United States and the Republic of Korea concluded a free trade agreement that now awaits approval by this Congress and the South Korean National Assembly before it is implemented.

The U.S. International Trade Commission has forecast that the elimination of tariffs on U.S. goods under the U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement would increase the Gross Domestic Product, GDP, of the United States by over \$10 billion annually. The agreement will also eliminate regulatory and other non-tariff barriers that have historically restricted access by American farmers, manufacturers, and service providers to the South Korean market.

With growing uncertainty about the health of our economy, it is critically important that we make every effort to spur U.S. economic growth and create new American jobs through securing access to markets in which U.S. farmers and businesses can compete and succeed. The proposed U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement stands to further increase U.S. exports to Korea and will generate new jobs for Americans. This agreement will be a win-win-win situation—a win for workers, a win for businesses, and a win for consumers.

The visit of President Lee Myung-Bak to Washington offers an unprecedented opportunity to discuss the important issues that our two countries face, jointly and separately. It gives us a chance to celebrate a long and productive friendship. It provides us with a reason to welcome an ally to our country and our Nation's Capitol.

Madam Speaker, I hope our colleagues will join me in offering our best wishes to President Lee on the occasion of his first official visit to the United States.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 16, 2008*

Mr. CAPUANO. Madam Speaker, on Monday, April 14, 2008 for the entire legislative day and Tuesday, April 15, 2008, for part of the day, I was unable to be in attendance and missed several rollcall votes due to CODEL to Afghanistan and Pakistan that I was leading. I wish to state for the record how I would have voted had I been present: rollcall No. 183—"yes"; rollcall No. 184—"yes"; rollcall No. 185—"yes"; rollcall No. 186—"yes"; rollcall No. 187—"yes"; and rollcall No. 188—"yes."

#### IN RECOGNITION OF CHARLES J. MITCHUM

### HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 16, 2008*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Charles J. Mitchum, for 30 years of outstanding public service at the Social Security Administration.

On March 26, 2008, Mr. Mitchum achieved the milestone of 30 years of exceptional service for the Social Security Administration (SSA). His leadership, care, and hard work over the past 30 years has been responsible for the great service residents of the northeastern Ohio community have come to expect from their local SSA offices. Mr. Mitchum began his career at the SSA offices in Ohio as a Contact Representative in the TeleService Center, connecting with constituents via telephone. He diligently worked his way up, holding positions as a Claims Representative, Operations Supervisor, Supplemental Security Income Program Specialist, Executive Assistant to the Regional Commissioner, Team Leader, Assistant District Manager and District Manager prior to being appointed as Area Director in 2004.

As Area Director for 29 northeastern Ohio Social Security Administration field offices, Mr. Mitchum ensures that the residents of northeast Ohio receive timely and courteous service. He also works closely with congressional offices to improve service to SSA beneficiaries. Mr. Mitchum's unwavering commitment to public service and ability to connect with SSA beneficiaries has been recognized in many Commissioner and Regional Commissioner Citations.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing Charles J. Mitchum for 30 years of exceptional public service and for continually striving to make a positive difference in the lives of SSA beneficiaries.

#### A PROCLAMATION HONORING METEOR SEALING SYSTEMS FOR THEIR PERFORMANCE IN THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY'S SAVE ENERGY NOW PROGRAM

### HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 16, 2008*

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker: Whereas, Meteor Sealing Systems has been a top performer in the U.S. Department of Energy's Save Energy Now Program; and Whereas, Meteor Sealing Systems committed itself to creating a world class, energy efficient company; and

Whereas, since 2006, Meteor Sealing Systems has contributed to the conservation of over five metric tons of carbon emission; be it

*Resolved*, That along with their friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Meteor Sealing Systems on its performance in the U.S. Department of Energy's Save Energy Now Program. With great appreciation and respect, we recognize the tremendous impact this facility has had in the community and the admirable example they have set.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO JOHNNY MANZANET

### HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 16, 2008*

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise to ask my colleagues to take this time to remember

the life of Puerto Rican boxing champ and a long-time community activist Johnny Manzanet.

Manzanet was a man whose life embodied the reverie of the American Dream, a man of distinction whose accomplishments were a testament to his great Puerto Rican heritage.

Born in the small fishing town of Salinas, Puerto Rico, Manzanet rose up to become a world class middleweight boxing champion and dedicated public servant. In 1968, he was called upon to lead the Olympic Team of the United States in Mexico's Summer Games of the XIX Olympiad. He was then called to serve once more, when Governor Nelson Rockefeller appointed him as the New York State Boxing Commissioner in 1970.

In the ensuing decades, Johnny continued to remain involved with the boxing world, training and developing young talent in every era. All-in-all, the list of those who learned from him include some of the sport's best, from Mike Tyson to the first Hispanic cruiserweight champion, Jose "Chegüi" Torres, to even Cassius Clay, the young upstart who would go on to become the great Muhammad Ali.

Yet no matter where he was or what he was doing, Johnny always managed to devote his time to the betterment of the Puerto Rican community. He contributed his time and talents to countless civic and charitable endeavors and has always given of himself unstintingly. Places like the Community Corporation of Loisaída and the Puerto Rican Community Development Project were the recipients of Manzanet's fierce advocacy and protection. He continued to serve in his final years, as a community representative under Bronx Borough Presidents Fernando Ferrer and Adolfo Carrion, Jr.

Sadly, Manzanet passed away on January 22, 2008, a benevolent amalgamation of intellect, steadfastness, and vigor. Though he will be greatly missed, his family, his friends, and his community will never forget his lifetime of sacrifice and dedication to others. They and we should never forget that in and out of the ring, Johnny Manzanet had the heart of a champion.

#### COMMEMORATING THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE FAIR HOUSING ACT (H. RES. 1095)

**HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 16, 2008*

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Fair Housing Act, H. Res. 1095. Signed into law in April 1968, the landmark Fair Housing Act includes broad prohibitions on discriminatory activity in the sale and rental of housing. Undoubtedly, this law has created significant change and progress in our Nation. Yet, the law has had a disappointing impact in deterring continued housing discrimination.

Racial discrimination in the real estate market, rental market, and in financing continues at high rates. According to the National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty, every year, more than 1.7 million fair housing violations are committed solely against African-Americans. An annual report by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

indicates that of the 10,328 housing-related complaints handled by the agency in 2006, race and disability made up the largest percentages. In an earlier HUD study, the agency found that among Blacks, Asians, and Pacific Islanders, one in every five customers encountered discrimination by rental agents. The harmful effects of these discriminatory housing practices have led to hyper segregated communities and schools across the country.

In my congressional district in Cleveland, Ohio, fair housing organizations such as the Housing Research & Advocacy Center report that the number of housing discrimination complaints have doubled in the last 5 years. Of those reported in my district, 38 percent involved disability, 34 percent alleged race discrimination, and 13 percent were based on familial status. These unlawful practices perpetuate communities where schools go without adequate resources and residents have access to fewer health care facilities and other essential services. Unfortunately, ongoing housing discrimination has created communities across this Nation that do not reflect the neighborhoods envisioned by Dr. Martin Luther King 40 years ago.

Housing discrimination has also played an integral role in our Nation's subprime loan and foreclosure crisis. A report by Cleveland's Housing Research & Advocacy Center found that, "not only do African-Americans and Latinos have a harder time getting approved for a loan, but once they get a loan, they wind up with high-cost sub prime loans more often than whites, even when they have higher incomes." U.S. maps that highlight the high number of foreclosed homes in minority communities further demonstrate the critical importance of the protections provided by the Fair Housing Act. Our Nation's dignity and economic security depend on the enforcement of this important law.

I appreciate this opportunity to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Fair Housing Act. I proudly join my colleagues and housing advocates across the country in advocating for increased efforts to achieve the "beloved community" incaptured in Dr. King's dream.

#### HONORING AND RECOGNIZING MEALS ON WHEELS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

SPEECH OF

**HON. FRANK A. LoBIONDO**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 14, 2008*

Mr. LoBIONDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise here today in support of a resolution honoring and recognizing the work of the Meals on Wheels Association of America, its member senior nutrition programs throughout the country, and their annual March for Meals campaigns.

This resolution recognizes the important work Meals on Wheels does in preventing senior hunger and improving the quality of life for hundreds of thousands of our Nation's seniors. It also encourages Members of Congress to support their local senior nutrition programs by delivering meals to homebound seniors in a community within their district or State.

The Meals on Wheels Association of America recently concluded its annual March for Meals campaign. March for Meals is a national

campaign during the month of March to raise awareness of senior hunger and to encourage action on the part of local communities. The month of March was chosen because it was during this month the law was enacted that included senior meal programs in the Older Americans Act.

An important part of March for Meals is Mayors for Meals Day, where mayors and elected officials from across the Nation deliver meals for their local Meals on Wheels programs. On March 19, 2008, a new record was set when 1,084 U.S. mayors and elected officials joined together to deliver meals to seniors.

I have proudly participated in past Meals on Wheels Association of America's "March for Meals" events and witnessed first hand both the need for these important programs and the incredible dedication of their staff and volunteers. I encourage each of you to get involved with your local programs—whether you help prepare meals, deliver meals, or just join local seniors in enjoying their meals—your support can make a difference.

I also encourage you to join me in supporting this resolution which will give the Meals on Wheels Association of America and its member programs the honor and recognition they so richly deserve.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 16, 2008*

Mr. ROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, on Thursday, April 16, I was unable to be present in the Capitol and missed rollcall votes Nos. 192 through 195. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner:

On rollcall votes Nos. 192 and 193, procedural votes on H.R. 2634, the Jubilee Act for Responsible Lending and Expanded Debt Cancellation of 2007, I would have voted "aye." On rollcall votes Nos. 194 and 195, procedural votes on H.R. 5715, Ensuring Continued Access to Student Loans Act, I would have voted "aye."

#### HONORING DR. MA YING-JEOU UPON HIS ELECTION AS PRESIDENT OF TAIWAN

**HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 16, 2008*

Mr. McCOTTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor and acknowledge Dr. Ma Ying-jeou upon his recent election to the Presidency of Taiwan.

On March 22, 2008, Taiwan elected a new President, Dr. Ma Ying-jeou, former mayor of Taipei. As a long term observer of Taiwan, I have noticed that this island country has taken great strides toward full democracy. The latest presidential election proved that democracy is thriving in Taiwan. Regarding Taiwan-U.S. relations, President-elect Ma has also indicated the need to strengthen our informal ties with each other. After 9/11, Taiwan was one of the first countries to give its support to us and has